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CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/EP 99/09989	16 December 1999	16 December 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION: HOMER A NEW TARGET OF TREATING PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Frabcusci GARCIA-LADONA, Sandra LANG

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. /X/ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 2. / / This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 3. /X/ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
 4. /x / A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
 5. /X/ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. /X/ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. / / has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. / / is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/USO).
 6. /X/ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 7. / / Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. / / are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. / / have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. / / have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. / / have not been made and will not be made.
 8. / / A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 9. / / An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 171(c)(4)).
 10. / / A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
- Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:
11. / / An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
 12. / / An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
 13. / / A FIRST preliminary amendment.
/ / A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
 14. / / A substitute specification.
 15. / / A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
 16. /x / Other items or information.
International Search Report
International Preliminary Examination Report

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U.S. Appln. No. (If Known) INTERNATIONAL APPLN. NO.
PCT/EP99/09989ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.
0480/01203

		<u>CALCULATIONS</u>		<u>PTO USE ONLY</u>	
17. /X/ The following fees are submitted					
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):					
Search Report has been prepared by the					
EPO or JPO.....	\$860.00	860.00			
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO					
(37 CFR 1.482).....	\$750.00				
No international preliminary examination fee paid to					
USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid					
to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).....\$700.00					
Neither international preliminary examination fee					
(37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee					
(37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO\$ 970.00					
International preliminary examination fee paid to					
USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied pro					
-visions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$96.00					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 860.00					
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration					
later than / / 20 / / 30 months from the earliest					
claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).					
<u>Claims</u>	<u>Number Filed</u>	<u>Number Extra</u>	<u>Rate</u>		
Total Claims	29 -20	9	X\$18.	162.00	
Indep. Claims	9 -3	6	X\$80.	480.00	
Multiple dependent claim(s)(if applicable) +270.					
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATION			=	1,502.00	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable.					
Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed					
(Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).					
SUBTOTAL			=	1,502.00	
Processing fee of \$130. for furnishing the English					
translation later than / / 20 / / 30 months from the					
earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +					
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE			=	1,502.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)).					
The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover					
sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property =					
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED			= \$	1,502.00	
Amount to be					
refunded: \$					
Charged \$					

a./X/ A check in the amount of \$ 1,502. to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b./ / Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

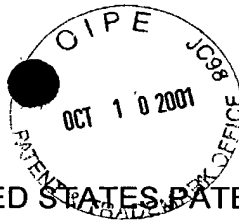
c./X/ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**KEIL & WEINKAUF
1101 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

SIGNATURE

Herbert B. Keil

NAME

Registration No. 18,967



098 JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 OCT 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Garcia-Ladona et al.

Serial No. 09/868,094

Filed: June 14, 2001

For: HOMER A NEW TARGET OF TREATING PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Date of Deposit October 2, 2001

Person Making Deposit Herbert B. Keil

Signature

Date of Signature October 2, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of
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Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
AND
RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Missing Requirements, attached please find an executed declaration for the above-identified application. Also attached is the assignment for recordation. A check for \$170.00 is attached.

In response to the Notification to Comply with Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures, a copy of the Sequence Listing in computer readable form is attached hereto. The content of the paper copy of the Sequence Listing and the copy of the Sequence Listing in computer readable form is the same, and includes no new matter.

10/17/2001 UEDUVIJE 00000020 09868094

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130.00 0P

Appendix 1

Sequence of homer gene amplified from HEL mRNA and its corresponding amino acid sequence

A CTCGAGCTCA TGTCTTCCAA ATTGACCCAA ACACAAAGAA GAACTGGGTA
 CCCACCAGCA AGCATGCAGT TACTGTGTCT TATTTCTATG ACAGCACAAG AAATGTGTAT
 AGGATAATCA GTTTAGATGG CTCAAAGGCA ATAATAAATA GTACCATCAC CCCAAACATG
 ACATTTACTA AAACATCTCA GAAGTTTGGC CAGTGGGCTG ATAGCCGGGC AAACACCCTT
 TATGGATTGG GATTCTCCTC TGAGCATCAT CTTTCGAAAT TTGCAGAAAA GTTTCAGGAA
 TTTAAAGAAG CTGCTCGACT AGCAAAGGAA AAATCACAAG AGAAGATGGA ACTTACCAGT
 ACACCTTCAC AGGAATCCGC AGGCGGGGAT CTTCACTCTC CTTTAACACC GAAAGTA (SEQ ID
 NO:3)

STRAHVFQID FNTKKNWVPT SKHAVTVSYF YDSTRNVYRI ISLDGSKAII NSTITPNMTF
 TKTSQKFGQW ADSRANTVYG LGFSSEHLS KFAEFQEFK EAARLAKEKS QEKMELTSTP
 SQESAGGDLQ SPLTPKVXG (SEQ ID NO:4)

Appendix 2 Homer gene sequence amplified from U87 mRNA and its corresponding amino acid sequence

A TGGGGGAGCA ACCTATCTTC AGCACTCGAG CTCATGTCTT CCAAATTGAC
 CCAAACACAA AGAAGAACTG GGTACCCACC AGCAAGCATG CAGTTACTGT GTCTTATTTT
 TATGACAGCA CAAGAAATGT GTATAGGATA ATCAGTTTAG ATGGCTCAAA GGCAATAATA
 AATAGTACCA TCACCCCAAA CATGACATTT ACTAAAACAT CTCAGAAGTT TGGCCAGTGG
 GCTGATAGCC GGGCAAACAC CGTTTATGGA TTGGGATTCT CCTCTGAGCA TCATCTTTCG
 AAATTTGCAG AAAAGTTTCA GGAATTTAAA GAAGCTGCTC GACTAGCAAA GGAAAAATCA
 CAAGAGAAGA TGGAACCTAC CAGTACACCT TCACAGGAAT CCGCAGGCGG GGATCTTCAG
 TCTCCTTTAA CACCAGAAAG TA (SEQ ID NO:5)

MGEQPIFSTR AHVFQIDPNT KKNWVPTSKH AVTVSYFYDS TRNVYRIISL DGSKAIINST
 ITPNMTFTKT SQKFGQWADS RANTVYGLGF SSEHLSKFA EKQEFKEAA RLAKEKSQEK
 MELTSTPSQE SAGGDLQSPL TPES (SEQ ID NO:6)

Appendix 3. Homer gene sequence amplified from rat astrocyte mRNA and its corresponding amino acid sequence

ATGGGGGA ACAACCTATC TTCAGCACTC GAGCTCATGT CTTCCAGATC GACCCAAACA
 CAAAGAAGAA CTGGGTACCC ACCAGCAAGC ATGCAGTTAC TGTGTCTTAT TTCTATGACA
 GCACAAGGAA TGTGTATAGG ATAATCAGTC TAGACGGCTC AAAGGCAATA ATAAATAGCA
 CCATCACTCC AAACATGACA TTTACTAAAA CATCTCAAAA GTTTGGCCAA TGGGCTGATA
 GCCGGGCAAA CACTGTTTAT GGACTGGGAT TCTCCTCTGA GCATCATCTC TCAAAATTTG
 CAGAAAAGTT TCAGGAATTT AAAGAAGCTG CTCGGCTGGC AAAGGAGAAG TCGCAGGAGA
 AGATGGAAC TACCAGTACC CCTTCACAGG AATCAGCAGG AGGAGATCTT CAGTCTCCTT
 TAACACCAGA (SEQ ID NO:7)

MGEQPIFSTR AHVFQIDPNT KKNWVPTSKH AVTVSYFYDS TRNVYRIISL DGSKAIINST
 ITPNMTFTKT SQKFGQWADS RANTVYGLGF SSEHLSKFA EKQEFKEAA RLAKEKSQEK
 MELTSTPSQE SAGGDLQSPL TP (SEQ ID NO:8)

Appendix 4 Homer gene sequence amplified from CHO cells nRNA and its corresponding amino acid sequence

TTCAGCACTC GAGCTCATGT CTTCCAGATT GACCCAAACA CAAAGAAGAA CTGGGTACCC
 ACCAGCAAGC ATGCAGTTAC TGTATCTTAT TTTTATGACA GCACAAGAAA TGTATATAGG
 ATAATCAGTT TAGATGGCTC AAAGGCAATA ATAAATAGCA CCATCACTCC AAACATGACA
 TTTACTAAAA CATCTCAAAA GTTTGGCCAG TGGGCTGATA GCCGGGCAAA TACTGTTTAT
 GGATTGGGAT TCTCCTCTGA GCATCATCTT TCCAAATTTG CAGAAAAGTT TCAGGAATTT
 AAAGAAGCTG CTCGTCTTGC AAAGGAGAAG TCACAGGAGA AGATGGAAC TACCAGTACA
 CCTTCACAGG AATCAGCAGG TGGAGATCTT CAGTCTCCTT TAACACCGAA AGGT (SEQ ID

NO:9)

FSTRAHVFQI DPNTKKNWVP TSKHAVTVSY FYDSTRNVYR IISLDGSKAI INSTITPNMT
 FTKTSQKFGW WADSRANTVY GLGFSSEHHL SKFAEKQEF KEAARLAKEK SQEKMELTST
 PSQESAGGDL QSPLTPKG (SEQ ID NO:10)

REMARKS

It is believed that by submitting the present amendment and sequence listing diskette, the application now fully complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. Favorable action by the examiner is solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF



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HBK/DSK/kas

Amend pages 18 and 19 as shown on the attached pages.

MGEQPIFSTR AHVFQIDPNT KKNWVPTS KH AVTVSYFYDS TRNVYRIISL DGSKAIINST
ITPNMTFTKT SQKFGQWADS RANTVYGLGF SSEHHL SKFA EKQEFKEAA RLAKESQEK
MELTSTPSQE SAGGDLQ SPL TP (SEQ ID NO:8)

Appendix 4 Homer gene sequence amplified from CHO cells nRNA and its corresponding amino acid sequence

TTCAGCACTC GAGTCATGT CTTCCAGATT GACCCAAACA CAAAGAAGAA CTGGGTACCC
 ACCAGCAAGC ATGCAGTTAC TGTATCTTAT TTTTATGACA GCACAAGAAA TGTATATAGG
 ATAATCAGTT TAGATGGCTC AAAGGCAATA ATAAATAGCA CCATCACTCC AAACATGACA
 TTTACTAAAA CATCTCAAAA GTTTGGCCAG TGGGCTGATA GCCGGGCAAA TACTGTTTAT
 GGATTGGGAT TCTCCTCTGA GCATCATCTT TCCAAATTTG CAGAAAAGTT TCAGGAATTT
 AAAGAAGCTG CTCGTCTTGC AAAGGAGAAG TCACAGGAGA AGATGGAAC TACCAGTACA
 CCTTCACAGG AATCAGCAGG TGGAGATCTT CAGTCTCCTT TAACACCGAA AGGT (SEQ ID NO:9)

FSTRAHVFI DPNTKKNWVP TSKHAVTVSY FYDSTRNVYR IISLDGSKAI INSTITPNMT
 FTKTSQKFGW WADSRANTVY GLGFSSEHHL SKFAEKQEF KEAARLAKEK SQEKMELTST
 PSQESAGDDL QSPLTPKG (SEQ ID NO:10)

Homer a new target of treating psychiatric disorders

Schizophrenia is a chronic psychiatric disorder affecting approximately 1% of the adult population. The economic and social cost of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders are considerable due to the large index of hospitalization. The real causes of schizophrenia remains still unknown. The symptoms, classified as positive (hallucinations) and negative (social withdrawal, paranoia) may be observed in some cases as early as in adolescence. Schizophrenic patients suffer a progressive degradation of mood, thought and cognition processes (Wright I. and Woodruff P., 1995). Compounds with a beneficial effect on the treatment of schizophrenia or psychosis have been so-called neuroleptics. Early studies suggested that an alteration of the brain dopaminergic system may be related to schizophrenic and psychotic symptoms. Although the alteration of dopaminergic function in the brain of schizophrenics is evident, whether the onset of the disease is due to this alteration or it is only a delayed consequence of the disorder remains unknown. An intense research has been developed regarding the brain dopaminergic system and the pharmacology of dopamine receptors. Typical antipsychotics, such haloperidol, with a strong therapeutic effect on the treatment of psychosis have high affinity to D2 dopamine receptors (Seeman 1987). However, this property is associated to a high incidence of extrapyramidal side effects in most of the cases in a irreversible form (Gratz S.S. and Simpson G.M. 1994; Ebadi M. and Srinivasan S.K. 1995). In addition, haloperidol have also high affinity for sigma receptors supporting them as a therapeutic target for the treatment of psychosis (Reynolds G.P. and Czudek C. 1995). Drugs specific for other brain receptors have been also proposed as antipsychotics (Fatemi H. et al., 1996). Atypical antipsychotics with mixed pharmacological profile, like clozapine, has been very useful for an effective and safer treatment of psychosis. However, to date, no fully efficient treatment have been found for the treatment of neither psychosis nor neuroleptic malignant syndrome.

It has been demonstrated that dopamine receptor blockade after acute treatment with neuroleptics induces genomic responses in brain (Deutch A.Y. 1996). In particular, transcription factors c-fos and c-jun are rapidly overexpressed and translocated to the cell nuclei leading to further genomic regulation processes. The effect seems to be related to antagonism at dopamine D1- and D2-receptors. The genomic response induced by neuroleptics may be involved not only to their beneficial effects of antipsychotics but also to their undesirable side effects.

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- The knowledge of gene expression changes induced by neuroleptics may help to understand both the beneficial and side effects of antipsychotic drugs and therefore also to define new and more effective targets for the treatment of schizophrenia and
- 5 psychosis. The aim of the invention was to disclose genomic effects induced by neuroleptics and subsequently to identify new targets for the treatment of psychotic and neurodegenerative disorders.
- 10 Recently it has been shown that gene expression of a synaptic protein (homer) can be up-regulated by different stimulus such treatment with the neurostimulant cocaine, seizures or brain synaptic activity particularly during the development (Brakeman P.R. et al., 1997). Homer protein is new 28 kd synaptic protein
- 15 which coding gene has been sequenced (Ozawa K.A. et al., 1997; Brakeman P.R. et al., 1997). The amino acid sequence contains a PDZ-domain. Homer protein shares only a 10% homology with other members of the PDZ-family thus establishing a putative new group. Homer protein is able to interact with the
- 20 intracytoplasmic part of metabotropic glutamate receptor proteins mGluR1A and mGluR5 (Brakeman P.R. et al., 1997). These excitatory aminoacid receptors are coupled to excitotoxic mechanisms in brain (Knöpfel T. and Gasparini F. 1996). The precise role of homer in the central nervous system is not yet elucidated.
- 25 However, the fact that homer protein contains a PDZ domain strongly suggests, as for other proteins containing such domain, the possibility of interaction with other cellular proteins involved in cell signaling systems (Pointing C.P. and Phillips C., 1995) and not only to metabotropic receptors.
- 30 The present invention provides the identification of cell systems useful for the study of homer function and as tools for the discovery of new therapeutic compounds related to this protein. The present invention provides human homer gene sequences.
- 35 The present invention provides the evidence that homer gene expression can be up regulated in vivo by the treatment with haloperidol.
- 40 The present invention also provides the partial sequence of rat and chinese hamster homer gene and the evidence that homer protein is also expressed by astrocytes.
- The present invention regards the effects of antipsychotic
- 45 treatment on homer gene expression and the identification of intervention targets for the treatment of schizophrenia, Tourette's syndrome, obsessive compulsive disorders, and other

psychotic disorders in general. The present invention also concerns the identification of homer protein, metabotropic and sigma receptors as targets for the identification and preparation of medicinal compounds useful for the treatment

10 leukoencephalopathy, infection-induced demyelination, and
demyelination disorders of genetic origin, amyotrophic lateral
sclerosis and HIV induced dementia. The present invention also
provides a new target for the treatment of CNS diseases with a
evident glial cell reaction. The present invention provides new
15 therapeutic targets for the treatment of leukemia and brain
tumors.

Regulation of homer gene expression by haloperidol

20 Methods

Animals

Adult Sprague-Dawley rats (250 g) were maintained in normal environmental conditions with free access to food and water *ab libitum*.

25

Treatment

Animals were treated with haloperidol (0.5 and 5 mg/kg) or saline. Naive (non-treated) animals were used as additional controls. Animals were also treated with amphetamine or with amphetamine and MPEP or SIB-1893 as described in example 18b.

Example 1. Tissue preparation.

35 The animals were sacrificed by decapitation 90 minutes after treatment. Whole brain was rapidly removed from the skull, frozen in dry ice and stored at -30°C. Rat brain sections (15 µm) were obtained at -20°C in a cryostat, mounted in gelatine-coated slides and stored at -30°C until used.

40 Example 2. Synthesis and labelling of oligonucleotides

Oligonucleotide sequences 40 base length were selected from the homer rat gene sequence published in the GENE BANK (accession number: U92079). Antisense oligonucleotide
45 homerAT (5'-CTCGAGTGCTGAAGATAGGTTGTTCCCCATTTTG-CCCA-3') was complementary to bases 559 to 599. Antisense oligonucleotide homerBT (5' -GTTCCATCTTCTCCT-GCGACTTCTCCTTTGCCAGCCGAGC-3')

- Example 3. In situ hybridization histochemistry

- 40 Example 4. Cell culture methods

The culture of HEL cells was performed using conditions commonly used by the art. Cells were grown in RPMI media containing serum 45 (10%), penicillin (90 unit/ml) and streptomycin (90 mg/ml).

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Example 9. Analysis of nucleic acids by gel electrophoresis

Gels for the analysis of RT-PCR products were prepared by melting agarose (1%) in electrophoresis buffer (Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, 1995) at 60°C. PCR samples were mixed with sample buffer containing and loaded (1µg/lane). Electrophoresis was run 60 min. and separation of fragments was checked by u.v illumination.

The analysis of gene sequences obtained by RT-PCR was performed by using software commercially available or in the public domain. The sequence identification was performed by homology search using DNASIS software (HITACHI) and software available in the public GENE BANK.

30 Homer gene expression is up regulated after antipsychotic treatment.

35 The in situ hybridization images showed that homer mRNA transcripts were present in higher levels in haloperidol treated animals than in controls (Fig. 1) The differences, on optical density measured in autoradiographic films, between control and treated animals are shown in figure 2. Homer gene expression induced by treatment with amphetamine is reduced in brain frontal cortex by administering compounds MPEP and SIB-1893.

Homer gene is expressed by neurotumoral cells

The fragments of DNA obtained after RT-PCR using RNA from A-172 and U87 cells and specific primers complementary to homer gene sequences fully agree in their size with the expected values of the homer gene fragments. The sequencing of RT-PCR products demonstrate their identity as sequences located in the homer

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25 Example 15 provides a method to determine agonist-induced elevation of intracellular Ca^{++} levels.

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Example 16 provides a method to measure agonist-induced cAMP production in cultured cells.

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Example 18b:

Methamphetamine antagonism was tested by recording methamphetamine-induced hyperactivity (measurement of locomotor activity).

Mice (NMRI, 21-26 g; female) received drug or vehicle, intraperitoneally, 30 min prior to methamphetamine (MET, 1 mg/kg po). Locomotor activity was recorded in cages equipped with light beams (2 mice/cage/dose) for 1 h, starting 30 min after MET. For calculation of drug effects the counts recorded during the time period of 15 to 60 min after start of the measurement were selected. The control value was calculated as the difference between the counts recorded for the methamphetamine group and the vehicle-treated group during the same time period.

Cataleptogenic effects

The cataleptic syndrome was tested according to the method described by Wirth et al. (Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn. Ther. 115, 1-31, 1958). The animals (male rats, Sprague-Dawley bodyweight 210-225 g; n/dose=4) were regarded as cataleptic if they remained in an abnormal posture for more than 15 sec, i.e. one foreleg on a 9-cm-high piece of cork. The animals were tested 30 min, 60, 120, 180 and 300 min after intraperitoneal administration of the test compound.

Results

Table

Compound	Methamphetamine antagonism ED50 [mg/kg ip]	Cataleptogenic effect [x/n] at dose [mg/kg ip]
BSF 470213	53.4	0/4 at dose 100
BSF 470214	51.2	0/4 at dose 100

The test compounds showed a dose-dependent antagonism of methamphetamine-induced hyperactivity. No induction of catalepsy was found.

The compounds used are SIB 1893 (2-methyl-6-(2-phenylethenyl)-pyridine = BSF 470213 and MPEP (2-methyl-8-(phenylethynyl)-pyridine hydrochloride = BSF 470214.

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Example 19 provides a method to determine the efficacy of compounds on preventing neuroleptic induced malignant syndrome.

5 Different animals models are may be used including haloperidol induced catalepsy and chronic treatment with haloperidol. Animals may be subsequently used to determine behavioural deficiencies (example 28, anatomical neurodegeneration and changes in gene expression (as exemplified in examples 1-3, 12, 13)).

10 Example 20 provides a method to determine the efficacy of a compound in the treatment of demyelinating diseases. Different animals models of demyelination are known of the art. Demyelination was induced by injecting antibodies. Animals were treated with the compounds after the induction of myelin loss.

15 Animal brains were used to determine the levels and integrity of myelin.

Example 21 provides a method to determine the efficacy of a compound in the treatment of demyelinating diseases.

20 The method consist in the use of oligodendrocytes-enriched cell
cultures from normal and demyelinated animals (jimpy mutation)
as described (Garcia-Ladona et al., 1997). Cells were treated
with different doses of the compound and the integrity of myelin
25 sheets and the levels of myelin markers were determined.

Example 22 provides a method to predict efficacy of a compound in Parkinson's disease. Different models were used, MTP induced Parkinsonism in mice, 6-OHDA induced degeneration in substantia nigra (Drug Discovery and Evaluation, Eds. H.G. Vogel and W.H. Vogel 1997).

Example 23 provides a method to determine the beneficial effects of a compound in senile dememntia of Alzheimer type.

35 The method is known of the art and consists on the use of transgenic animals overproducing b-amyloid protein. Animals can be treated with compounds and analysed for memory deficits and other behavioural parameters.

40 Examples 24 provides a method to identify compounds with high affinity to metabotropic receptors. Similar methods have been extensively described in the literature (Drug Discovery and Evaluation, Eds. H.G. Vogel and W.H. Vogel 1997).

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Binding saturation kinetics of a radioligand. Membranes (200 μ l) were incubated (600 μ l total volume) in 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH: 7.7) containing 1 mM EDTA (buffer B) with increasing concentrations of radioligand in the presence (non specific binding) or in the
5 absence (total binding) of an antagonist at high concentration. Incubation was prolonged for 90 min at 30°C; afterwards, samples were filtered, using a Skatron filtration system, through GF/B filters embedded in 0.3% poly-ethylenimide. Filters were washed with 9 ml of butter B at 4°C. Radioactivity retained in the
10 filters was measured by liquid scintillation counting using 5 ml Ultima-Gold.

Displacement of radioligand binding: Binding displacement experiments were performed basically as reported in other
15 studies. Membranes (200 μ l) were incubated in buffer B (600 μ l total volume) with increasing concentrations of the selected compounds in the presence of a selected concentration of radioligand. After a 87 min incubation period at 30°C, samples were filtered with buffer B at 4°C through GF/B filters. Filters
20 were washed with 9 ml buffer B. Radioactivity retained in the filters was determined as above. Total binding was defined as radioligand binding observed in the absence of other compounds. Non specific binding was defined as radioligand binding levels observed in the presence of antagonist in high concentration.

25 Analysis of radioligand binding data Saturation parameters radioligand were estimated both by no-linear regression analysis and from linear plots by using SigmaPlot software (Jandel Scientific Germany). Displacement curves were build from
30 radioactive binding levels expressed as percentage of total binding. IC₅₀ and Hill coefficients (n_H) were estimated by non linear regression analysis.

Example 25 provides a method to identify compounds with agonist
35 activity at different receptors by measuring agonist stimulated [³⁵S]GTP_γS binding.

The methods are very well known in the art (Hilf and Jakobs 1992). Briefly, agonist activity was determined by measuring
40 drug-induced changes of [³⁵S]GTP_γS binding in membranes from cells. Cell membranes were obtained as indicated above. [³⁵S]GTP_γS binding assay was performed using a previously described method with minor modifications. Cell membranes (12 μ g) were incubated with 50 mM trietanolamine-HCl buffer (pH: 7.5) containing 6.75 mM
45 MgCl₂, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM EDTA, 10 μ M GDP and [³⁵S]GTP_γS (nM). Following 60 min incubation, at 30°C, in the absence or in the presence of different drug concentrations, the assay mixture

45 The method is very well known of the art (Lipska et al., 1993). Animals are lesioned with a excitotoxin in the central hippocampal area in the neonatal period and are used in the

- The present invention also provides partial nucleotide sequences of homer gene of hamster and homer protein expressed by

- Nucleic acid sequences according with the present invention can be used to design anti-sense oligonucleotides and to determine aminoacid sequences of polypeptides encoded by them.

- Modified antisense oligonucleotide synthesis is well known in the art (Gene Therapy, Eds, J.T. August, 1997). Different oligonucleotide modifying groups can be used. Modified anti sense oligonucleotides will be tested to determine time-life, bioavailability and efficacy on inhibiting the homer protein translation (examples 11, 12 and 13).

- The human homer peptides of present invention can be used to raise specific antibodies. The present invention also includes
30 the use of antibodies or antisense oligonucleotides raised against human homer protein as therapeutic compounds and as probes to detect human homer protein and gene respectively (see examples 1, 3, 12 and 13). Where probes means unlabelled or isotope or non-isotopically labelled compounds that bind to a
35 specific target. The antibodies against the human homer sequence can be obtained using the known protein chemistry techniques.

- The present invention also includes a method to disclose the role of homer protein in neurotumoral and leukemic cells for example
40 in invasive activity, proliferation, cell survival, apoptosis, signal transduction, genomic activity toxicity, sensibility to infectious agents and biological and chemical compounds.

- The present invention includes a method to study the role of
45 homer protein on the activity of other cell signalling mechanisms
by using HEL cells and A-172 and U97 human glioma cells.

The present invention includes a method to study the role of human homer protein on the activity of specific cell proteins and receptors by transfecting their genes in HEL cells, A-172 and U87 human glioma cells and CHO cells. Transfection techniques are well known of persons skilled in the art and involve the transference into the cell of gene sequences included in a vector. Where vector means polynucleotide sequences that facilitate the insertion in a host of a given genetic information. Where vectors include plasmids and eucaryotic viruses and bacteriophages. Many vectors and expression systems are well known and documented in the art (for example pcDNA3, pCR2.1 from Invitrogene).

Methods to detect human homer

- 15** The present invention includes a method to detect human homer protein in human brain by using antisense oligonucleotides or antibodies indicated above. Examples of such methods are reported in examples 1, 2, 3, 12 and 13).
- 20** The present invention provides a method to detect human brain (glial) tumors by using antibodies directed against human sequences of homer or using isotope- or non-isotopically-labelled oligonucleotide probes complementary to human homer sequence. Methods are exemplified in examples 1, 2, 3, 12 and 13.
- 25** The present invention includes a method to detect human glioblastoma and leukemic cells in culture using antibodies directed to human homer protein or antisense nucleotides complementary to human homer protein gene sequences. Methods
- 30** for such detection are reported in examples 2, 3, 4, 12 and 13.

Neurodegeneration and homer

- 35 The present invention includes a method to treat human brain degenerative processes by using compounds modifying homer gene expression. Methods to identify such compounds are exemplified in the examples.

- Where degenerative processes are ischemia of vascular origin, ischemic states induced by brain or spinal cord trauma, epilepsy, psychotic disorders including schizophrenia, senile dementia including senile dementia of Alzheimer's type, demyelinating diseases, HIV induced dementia and neurodegeneration involving excitatory aminoacid receptors and neurodegeneration involving reactive glial cells. Degenerative processes is a term used also as synonym of neurodegeneration and of neurodegenerative disease.

The present invention also provides a method for treating or prevent neurological deficits observed in patients suffering of neurodegenerative diseases by using agonist/antagonist of metabotropic receptors. Such compounds may be identified using current membrane binding methods as described.

30 The present invention also contains a method to treat and prevent neurological deficits induced after treatment with typical antipsychotics by using antagonist/agonist of metabotropic receptors. Such compounds will be identified using membrane binding methods described in the examples.

Brain tumors and leukemias

The present invention provides a method to treat human brain
45 (glial) tumors by using modified or unmodified antisense
oligonucleotides complementary to human homer mRNA sequences
or by using antibodies directed against human homer protein.

or by using compounds modifying the expression of homer protein acting directly in the transcription or in the translation, protein folding, protein maturation, protein turnover processes, or by using compounds that modify the interaction between homer

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Appendix 4 Homer gene sequence amplified from CHO cells mRNA and its corresponding amino acid sequence

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Ebadi M. And Srinivasan S.K.	1995	Pharmacological Reviews 47:	575-604		
Brakeman P.R., Lanahan A.A., O'Brien R., Roche K., Barnes C.A., Haganir R.L., and Worley P.F.	1997	FEBS Letters 412:	183-189	1997	Nature 386: 284-288
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J.T. August	1997	Drug Discovery and Evaluation			
H.G. Vogel and W.H. Vogel Eds.					

- 45

11. A method of treatment of CNS disorders in a human being via glial cells comprising administering to said human being a composition comprising an effective amount of a compound, which is able to act on glial cells and which is able to modulate the expression of homer.

12. A method for the treatment of a disease in a human being comprising administering to the said human being a composition comprising an effective amount of a compound inducing homer protein expression or a composition comprising an effective amount of a homer peptide interacting with the homer interaction motif located in the disease-associated-target.

13. A method according to claim 12 where the disease is degenerative disease involving cell degeneration or cell death or apoptosis and the disease-associated-target is human homologue of AFG2 protein.

14. A method according to claim 12 where the disease is neurodegenerative disease including ischemia and stroke and the disease-associated-target is insulin like growth factor binding protein.

15. A method according to claim 12 where the disease is hepatic degenerative processes and the disease-associated-target is interleukin 6 binding protein.

16. A method according to claim 12 where the disease is tissue degenerative processes involving cell death or apoptosis including neurodegenerative disease and ischemia-induced degeneration and the disease-associated-target is cytochrome oxidase or cytochrome P450 XIA1 or topoisomerase I.

17. A method according to claim 12 where the disease is human diseases including brain diseases and tumour progression and the disease-associated-target is GPI-linked NAD-arginine ADP-ribosyltransferase.

18. A method according to claim 12 where the disease is metabolic disorder including obesity and the disease-associated-target is pyruvate carboxylase.

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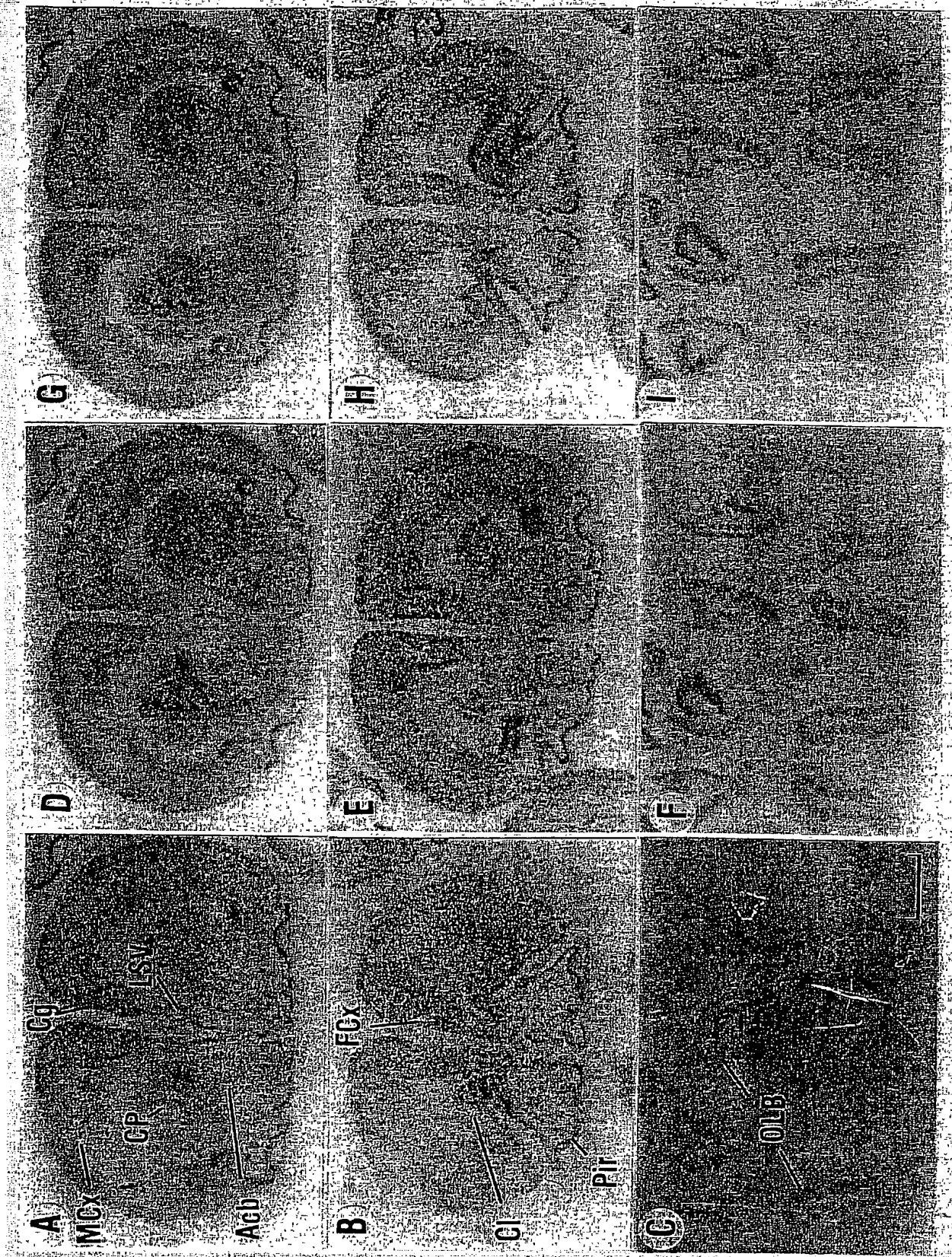
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Fig. 1



Homer mRNA levels in limbic regions of rat brain Dose-effect experiment

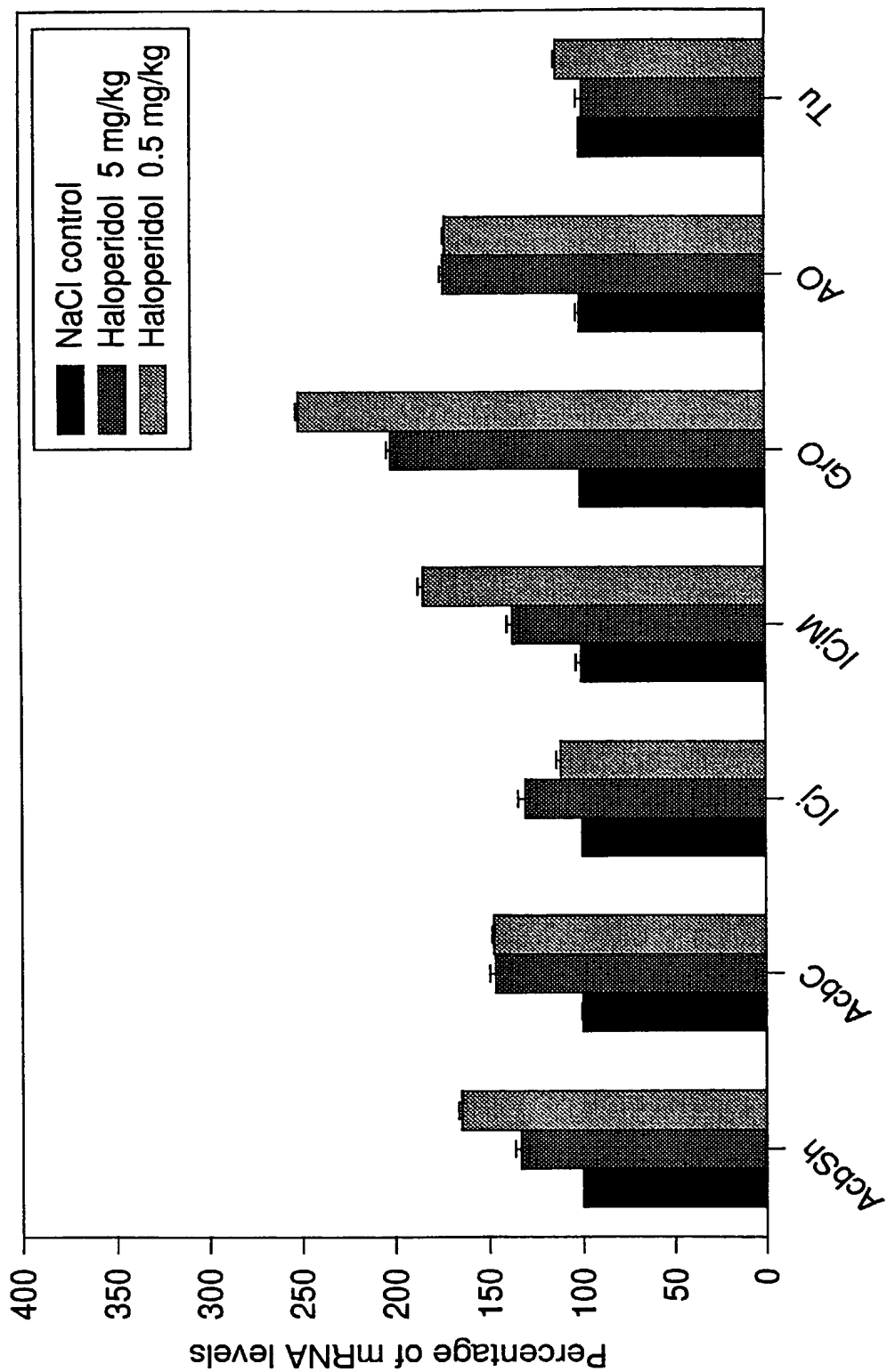
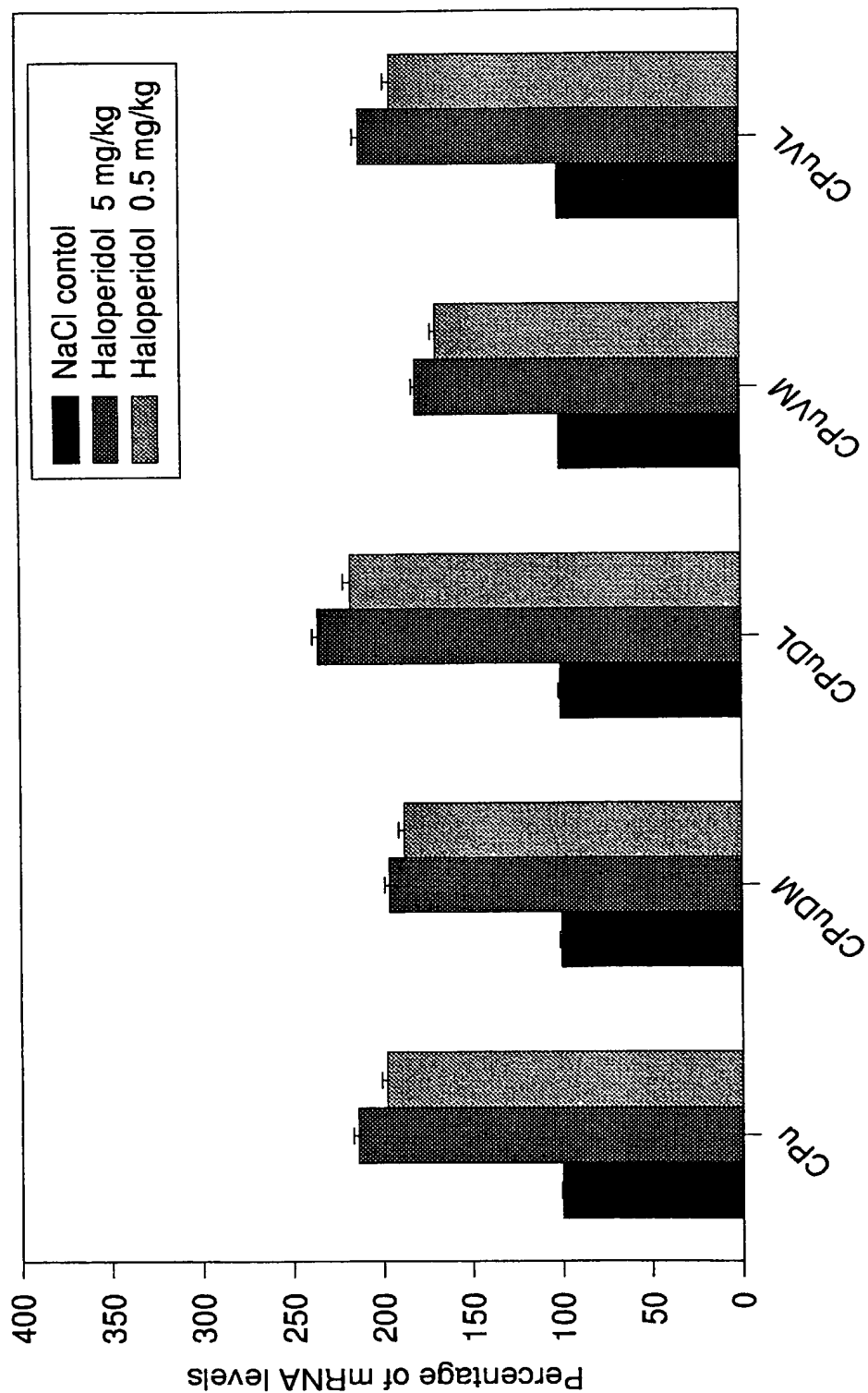


Fig. 2a

Homer mRNA levels in striatal regions of rat brain Dose-effect experiment



Homer mRNA levels in cortical regions of rat brain Dose-effect experiment

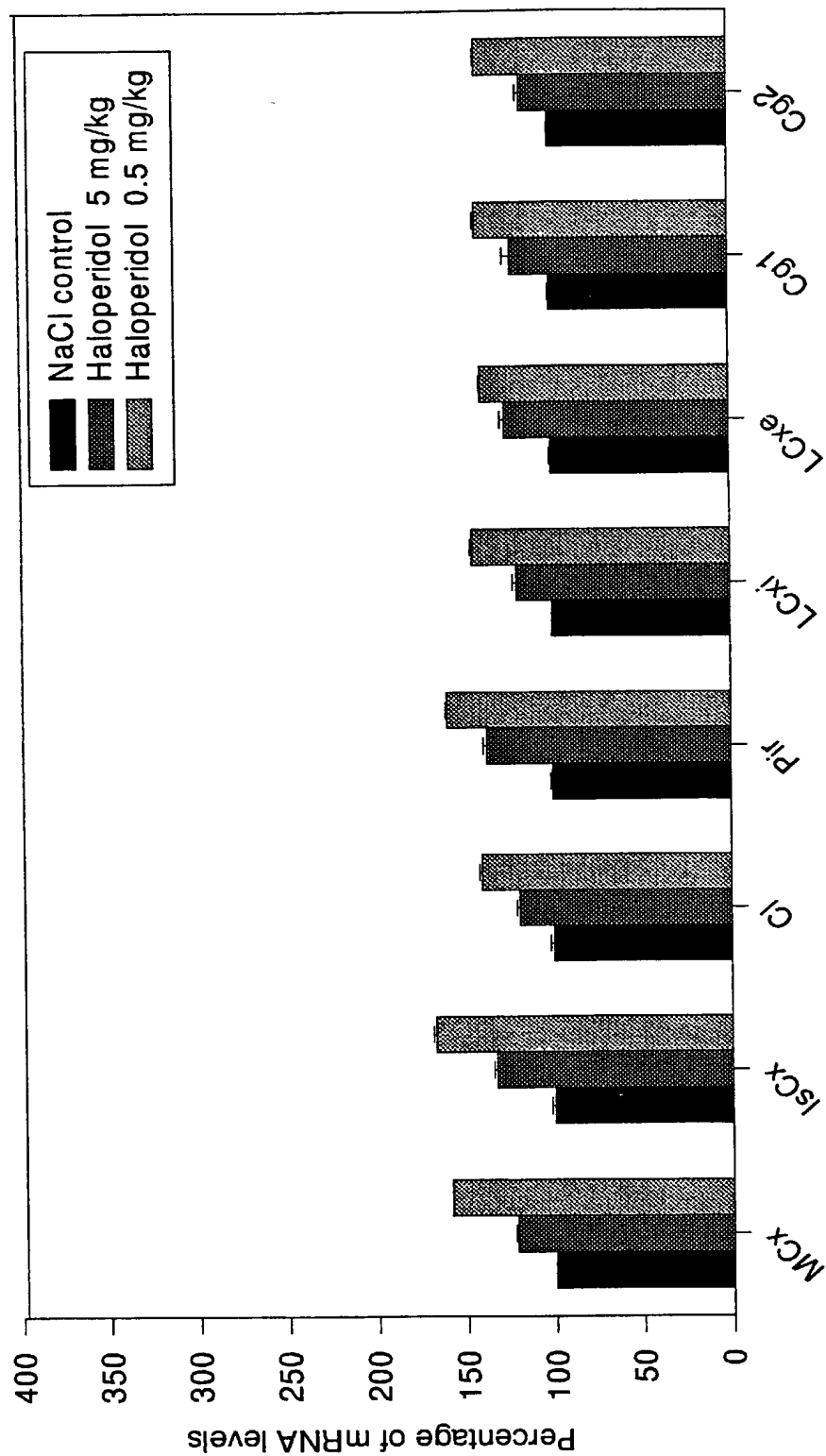


Fig. 2c

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ABBOTT GMBH&CO.KG MPG/JM

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

HOMER A NEW TARGET OF TREATING PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

the specification of which:

[] is attached hereto.
[x] was filed on June 14, 2001 as
Application Serial No. 09/868,094
and was amended on _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

[] In compliance with this duty, attached is an information disclosure statement.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
			Yes	No
<u>98 12 39 43.7</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>	<u>16/12/98</u>	[X]	[]
_____	_____	_____	[]	[]
_____	_____	_____	[]	[]
_____	_____	_____	[]	[]

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which



occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>PCT/EP99/09989</u>	<u>16 December 1999</u>	<u>Published</u>
<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>

I hereby appoint KEIL & WEINKAUF their attorneys and/or agents: Herbert B. Keil, Reg. No. 18,967; Russell E. Weinkauff, Reg. No. 18,495; Gerald H. Bjorge, Reg. No. 32,386; Norman G. Torchin, Reg. No. 34,068; Henry R. Jiles, Reg. No. 32,677; Malcolm J. MacDonald, Reg. No. 40,250; Jason D. Voight, Reg. No. 42,205 the address of all being KEIL & WEINKAUF, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 620, Washington, D.C. 20036 (telephone (202)659-0100), with full power to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

100 Francisco Javier GARCIA-LADONA

Full name of sole or first inventor

X [Signature]

Inventor's signature

X 15.01.2002

Date

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Inventor's signature

X

Date

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Post Office Address

TOTAL P.85

<u>PCT/EP99/09989</u>	<u>16 December 1999</u>	<u>Published</u>
<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

X Inventor's signature X Date

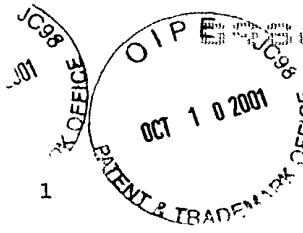
Brehmstrasse 107 i 76870 Rastatt, Germany
Post Office Address

X *Chinua Long*
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Born-Grunzweig-Strasse 24, D-67053, Ludwigshafen, Germany
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GESAMT SEITEN 04



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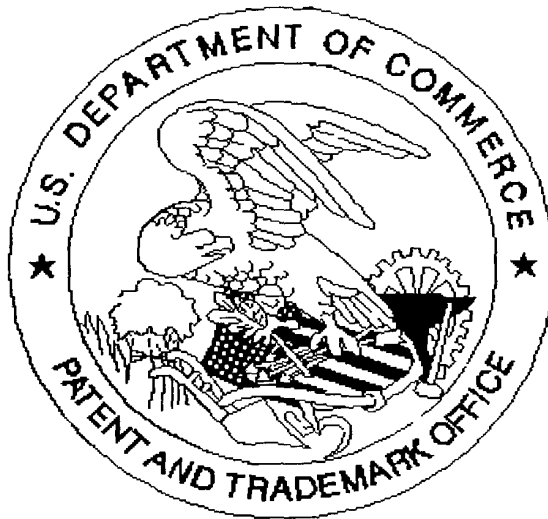
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